

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received AUG 4 1980

date entered OCT 14 1980

1. Name

historic

Robert Johnson House

and/or common

Johnson House

2. Location

street & number Block 98 Lot 2 (ne corner 300 North 100 East)

not for publication

city, town

Manti

vicinity of

congressional district

01

state

Utah

code

049

county

Sanpete

code

039

3. Classification

Category

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

Ownership

☐ public☒ private☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☒ other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name

Rodney Cox

street & number

257 East Union

city, town

Manti

vicinity of

state

UT 84642

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Sanpete County Courthouse

street & number

160 N Main

city, town

Manti

state

UT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sanpete Vernacular Survey

has this property been determined eligible?

yes ☒ no

date Spring 1979

federal

☒ state

county

local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town

Salt Lake City

state

ut

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robert Johnson house is a two-story stone "hall and parlor" folk/vernacular house type. There is a one story rear "T" extension which was built as a part of the original house. The west two-story section is basically two-rooms over two-rooms with the south section the largest and containing the staircase. The stair's are the open, banistered type and lead up directly behind the front door. A rear staircase, perhaps a later addition, runs up from the room in the rear. There are large fireplaces in each of the rooms. The roof is gabled and stone internal wall chimneys are found at each end of the house.

The house is built of oolite limestone taken from the nearby "temple hill quarry". The walls are coursed ashlar with the mortar incised to emphasize the geometric patterning of the stonework. The house has a symmetrical three-over-three opening facade. Lintels and sills are cut stone and extra attention has been given to dressing the corner stones in order to highlight the quoins. Decorative details are sparse and relegated to simple cornice and greek revival gable returns.

The house remains in excellent condition and virtually unaltered externally. In the later 19th century a partition was added to the larger downstairs room to effect a central passageway.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

c 1860

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert Johnson house is significant architecturally as an example of early Sanpete Valley domestic vernacular design. This two-story hall and parlor house, often termed an "I" house by folklife specialists, was a symbol of local economic and political achievement.¹ Within the range of vernacular house types, there were serious economic divisions. The family of modest income might have a single room house, or a one-story two room hall and parlor house. Those more affluent would often choose this full two story type both for its extra room and its social status. The Robert Johnson house remains virtually unaltered and is one of the most striking monuments to early pioneer technology extant in Sanpete today. The house served to delimit one end of the economic spectrum in vernacular building and historically points to the basic discrepancy of wealth within the Mormon "village" community.

Robert Johnson, born in Chester, England in 1823, offers a nice illustration of the opportunities, both religious and economic, which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offered its converts.² Johnson's family was poor and as a youngster he was forced into factory work. Baptized into the Mormon Church, Johnson emigrated to Utah in 1853 with practically nothing. Living in Manti by 1854 Johnson engaged in making adobies and other odd jobs until he could secure a farm. By 1860 he could list himself as a prosperous farmer with holdings of about \$750. Probably about 1860 he constructed the large stone house for his family. The house became a tribute to the American dream he shared with his fellow Mormon kingdom builders. The house belonged to the Johnsons until the 20th century when it was acquired by the Ernest Braithwaite family.

¹ Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 55:4 (December 1965), pp. 549-577.

² See W.H. Lever, History of Sanpete and Emery Counties (Ogden: W.H. Lever, 1898), pp. 137-138.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Manti, UT

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	4	5	3	2	0	4	3	4	6	7	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Begin SW cor Blk 98 Plat A: E 115.84; N 3.25 chains; W 115.84'; S 3.25 chains to beginning

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Carter/Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date April 1980

street & number 307 West 200 South

telephone 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT 84101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/22/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Bruce M. Dwyer

date 10/14/80

Keeper of the National Register

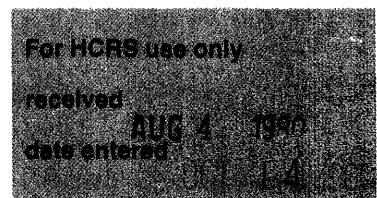
Attest: *Paula Stover Reed*

date 10/10/80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

W.H. Lever, History of Sanpete and Emery Counties (Ogden: WH Lever, 1898).

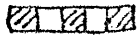
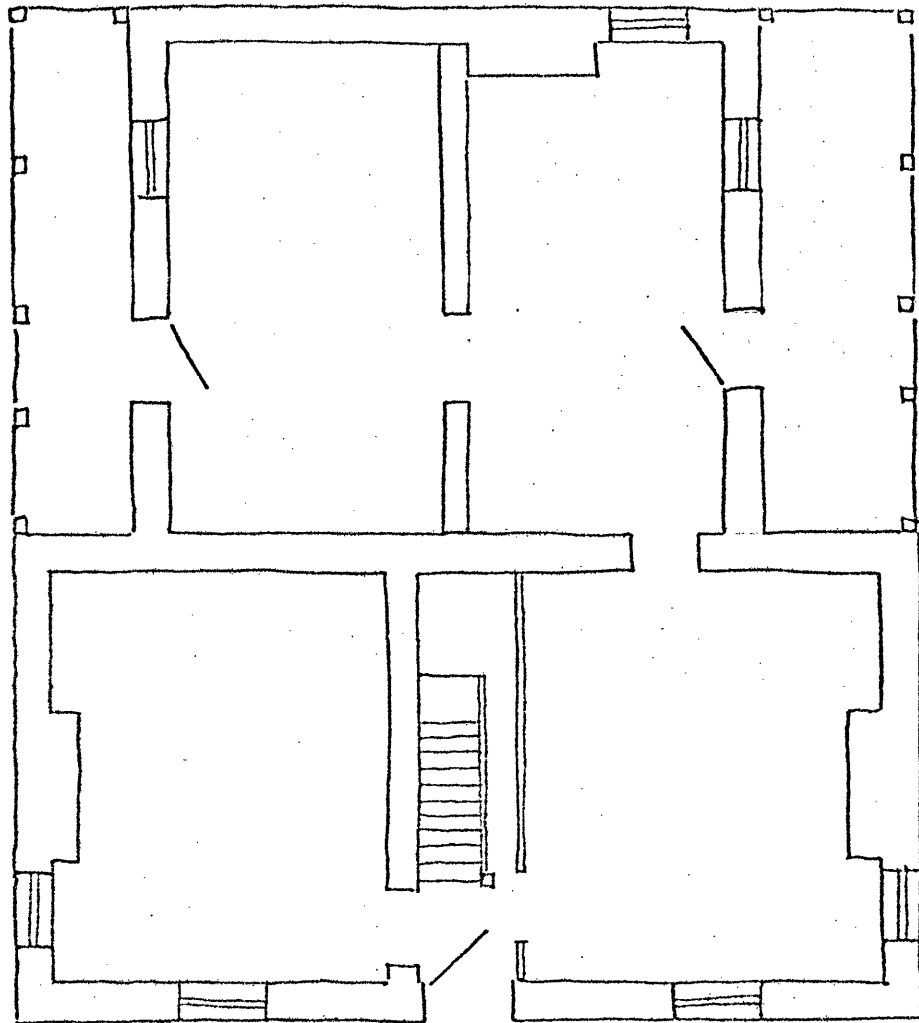
Sanpete County Records

Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 55:4 (Dec 1965), 544-577.

Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968).

Leon S. Pitman, "Nineteenth Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region," Diss. Louisiana State University 1973.

ROBERT JOHNSON HOUSE c. 1860 MANTI



STONE HALL & PARLOR HOUSE

AUG 4 1980